

Kelly Beard-Tittone
12821 Grandview Rd.
Grandview, MO 64030
October 20, 2000

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Docket # 98P-0151/CP1
FDA
Dockets Management Branch
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20785

Dear FDA:

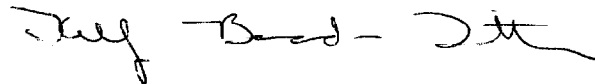
I understand the FDA is considering a petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals. Such a petition should be granted for a number of reasons, which follow:

- Allowing animals that are too sick or injured to stand should not be allowed to be considered safe for human consumption. Besides the additional risk of bacterial contamination from animals with weakened immune systems, evidence suggests that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of mad cow disease. This disease has been linked to CJD, a fatal human disease.
- Moving downed animals almost always involves cruelty - pushing the poor spent creatures with tractors or dragging them with chains. I have seen video of these practices. The cruelty was hard to watch. I could just imagine the strain on the skeletal system. Ligaments being torn... The sounds of agony....

FDA's action to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals, while protecting human health and reducing animal cruelty, would not create an economic hardship because downed animals comprise a small percentage of animals slaughtered. By removing the market for downed animals, this action may well provide an incentive for the industry to better care for the animals (90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



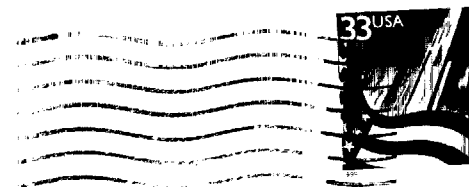
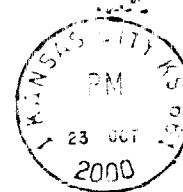
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Saving Life on Earth



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